

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 1, 1999

SENATE BILL

No. 53

Introduced by Senator Hughes

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Briggs)

***(Coauthors: Senators Alpert, Baca, Costa, Solis, and
Vasconcellos)***

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Aroner, Dutra,
Honda, Jackson, Knox, Longville, Mazzoni, Shelley, and
Washington)*

December 7, 1998

An act relating to Alzheimer's disease, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 53, as amended, Hughes. Alzheimer's disease diagnostic and treatment centers.

Existing law states the intent of the Legislature to encourage the establishment of geographically dispersed diagnostic and treatment centers for Alzheimer's disease within every postsecondary higher educational institution with a medical center, and to encourage research to discover the cause of, and cure for, Alzheimer's disease. Existing law authorizes any postsecondary higher educational institution with a medical center to establish a diagnostic and treatment center for Alzheimer's disease subject to the State Department of Health Services grants review process, and requires the department to administer grants, for specified

purposes, to those institutions of higher education that establish such centers.

This bill would appropriate ~~\$2,000,000~~ \$500,000 to the department for allocation, in accordance with existing law, to maintain the services provided by certain existing Alzheimer's disease diagnostic and treatment centers, ~~and to support development in specified priority areas relating to Alzheimer's disease diagnosis and treatment.~~

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. *The Legislature finds and declares all of*
2 *the following:*

3 (a) *Alzheimer's disease and related disorders are*
4 *progressive and degenerative neurological disorders that*
5 *attack the brain and impair the judgment and mental*
6 *functioning of hundreds of thousands of Californians.*

7 (b) *These unrelenting dementias take their toll by*
8 *inflicting victims with confusion, memory loss, and*
9 *personality and behavioral changes that ultimately lead*
10 *to the need for full-time supervision, custodial care,*
11 *expensive health care, and death.*

12 (c) *Scientists, including Johns Hopkins' public health*
13 *epidemiologists, predict that if no breakthroughs in*
14 *research and treatment are made, the number of*
15 *Americans with Alzheimer's disease will quadruple by*
16 *the year 2047.*

17 (d) *Biological researchers have discovered several*
18 *genes, such as APOE4, that predispose one toward*
19 *developing Alzheimer's disease.*

20 (e) *Cholinesterase inhibitors, herbal extracts, and*
21 *treatments involving vitamin E and estrogen have shown*
22 *promise in early treatment of Alzheimer's disease.*

23 (f) *In the last decade, researchers have made strides in*
24 *detecting signs of Alzheimer's disease years or even*

1 decades before memory loss and mental functioning
2 begin to affect the victims.

3 (g) Top Alzheimer's disease experts view the disease
4 as a crisis of old age, with a prevalence that increases
5 dramatically with each additional year of life after the age
6 of 65 years.

7 (h) Over 500,000 Californians over the age of 60 years
8 are currently afflicted with Alzheimer's disease or a
9 related disorder, at a cost of approximately \$10 billion
10 annually for care, treatment, and lost wages of caregivers.

11 (i) Current projections show that 1.5 million to 2
12 million Californians will be afflicted by the year 2040,
13 requiring the care of at least two and usually five family
14 members or care providers.

15 (j) Finding a way to postpone the onset of Alzheimer's
16 disease or intervening with early treatment may reduce
17 the incidence of the disease by as much as 50 percent.

18 (k) The only way to prevent Alzheimer's disease from
19 becoming an epidemic in the 21st century is to continue
20 to invest in research and progressive diagnostic and
21 treatment methodologies.

22 (l) The State of California has made considerable
23 progress developing diagnosis strategies, care planning,
24 physician training, research, and treatment by
25 supporting a network of Alzheimer's disease diagnostic
26 and treatment centers based throughout the state at
27 state-supported medical schools.

28 (m) The line-item veto of funding in the Budget Act
29 of 1998 that was earmarked to support three centers at
30 risk of closure was not in the best interest of California,
31 and actually places the people of California at a strategic
32 disadvantage as the state attempts to avert an impending
33 medical crisis.

34 (n) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature that
35 emergency funding be appropriated in order to maintain
36 Alzheimer's disease diagnostic and treatment center
37 services that existed on June 30, 1998, and that no
38 reductions in funding or service occur for those centers
39 in existence currently.

1 ~~SEC. 2. The sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000)~~
2 ~~five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is appropriated~~
3 ~~from the General Fund to the State Department of~~
4 ~~Health Services, in augmentation of Item 4260-111-0001 of~~
5 ~~the Budget Act of 1998, Chapter 324, Statutes of 1998, to~~
6 ~~be allocated, in accordance with Article 4 (commencing~~
7 ~~with Section 125275) of Chapter 2 of Part 5 of Division 106~~
8 ~~of the Health and Safety Code, to maintain the services~~
9 ~~provided by the nine Alzheimer's disease diagnostic and~~
10 ~~treatment centers that were in existence as of June 30,~~
11 ~~1998, as follows:~~

12 ~~(a) One million five hundred thousand dollars~~
13 ~~(\$1,500,000) shall be allocated to avert closures of three~~
14 ~~of the nine Alzheimer's disease diagnostic and treatment~~
15 ~~centers.~~

16 ~~(b) (1) Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)~~
17 ~~shall be allocated to support the development of all of the~~
18 ~~following:~~

19 ~~(A) Rural models for Alzheimer's diagnosis and~~
20 ~~treatment.~~

21 ~~(B) Culturally sensitive care and treatment~~
22 ~~management strategies.~~

23 ~~(C) Partnerships with medical schools for more~~
24 ~~training regarding dementia.~~

25 ~~(2) The State Department of Health Services shall~~
26 ~~issue a request for applications that requires applicants~~
27 ~~for receipt of this funding to effectively demonstrate how~~
28 ~~the funds would be used to address the development of~~
29 ~~one or more of the priorities listed in paragraph (1).~~

30 ~~SEC. 2.—1998.~~

31 ~~SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the~~
32 ~~immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or~~
33 ~~safety within the meaning of Article IV of the~~
34 ~~Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts~~
35 ~~constituting the necessity are:~~

36 ~~In order to maintain vital funding for, and to avert~~
37 ~~closures of, Alzheimer's disease diagnostic and treatment~~

1 centers during the 1998–99 fiscal year, it is necessary that
2 this act take effect immediately.

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